


## REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 14 remain in this application. Claims 3 thru 13 have been amended by eliminating multiple dependent claims and deleting preferably clauses. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made".

The support for these amendments is found in the claims as originally filed. These amendments are being entered to bring the claims into conformance with, *inter alia*, 37 CFR §1.75; no new matter is added.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
T. David Reed  
Agent for Applicants  
Registration No. 32,931

16 August 2001  
5299 Spring Grove Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45217-1087  
Phone: (513) 627-7025  
FAX: (513) 627-6333

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

In the claims:

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## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A detergent particle characterized by:
  - i) a particle core characterized by a detergent active material, and
  - ii) a particle coating layer at least partially covering said particle core, said particle coating layer characterized by a water soluble coating material;wherein said particle coating layer provides a surface area reduction of at least 10%.
2. The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said coating material is a water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material.

Claim 2

3. The detergent particle as claimed in [any of claims 1-2] wherein said water soluble non-hydrating material is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal carbonate salts, alkali metal sulfate salts, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3

4. The detergent particle as claimed in [any of claims 1-3], wherein said water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material is the double salt  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4:\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  in a weight ratio of  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  to  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  of from 80:20 to 20:80.

Claim 4

5. The detergent particle as claimed in [any of claims 1-4] wherein the weight ratio of  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  to  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  of from 75:25 to 60:40.

Claim 5

6. The detergent particle as claimed in [any claims 1-5] wherein said particle coating layer further includes a detergent adjunct material.

Claim 6

7. The detergent particle as claimed in [any of claims 1-6] wherein said detergent adjunct material is selected from the group consisting of brighteners, pigments, chelants, nonionic surfactants, pH control ingredients, detergency co-builders and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7

8. The detergent particle as claimed in [any of claims 1-7] wherein said detergent active in said particle core is selected from the group consisting of bleaching agents, enzymes and mixtures thereof.

9. The detergent particle as claimed in <sup>Claim 8</sup> [any of claims 1-8] wherein said detergent active material in said particle core is characterized by a blend of surfactants and dry detergent ingredients.
10. The detergent particle as claimed in <sup>Claim 9</sup> [any of claims 1-9] wherein said blend of surfactants and dry detergent ingredients is characterized by a blend of anionic surfactants and alkali metal carbonates.
11. The detergent particle as claimed in <sup>Claim 10</sup> [any of claims 1-10] wherein said blend is further characterized by a detergent builder material.
12. The detergent particle as claimed in <sup>Claim 11</sup> [any of claims 1-11] wherein said particle coating layer provides a surface area reduction of at least 20%.
13. The detergent particle as claimed in <sup>Claim 12</sup> [any of claims 1-12] wherein said particle coating layer provides a surface area reduction of at least 30%.
14. A detergent composition characterized by:
- a) from 1% to 99% of a detergent particle having a particle core characterized by a detergent active material, and a particle coating layer at least partially covering said particle core, said particle coating layer providing a surface area reduction of at least 10%; and
  - b) the balance detergent adjunct ingredients.